

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 1, further comprising An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:~~

a body comprising gingival and occlusal tie wings defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, each of the gingival and occlusal tie wings having a mesial/distal extent, said gingival wing comprising a gingivally-extending center leg and gingivally-extending mesial and distal wing tip portions, wherein said gingivally-extending center leg extends a greater distance from said archwire slot than each of said gingivally-extending mesial and distal wing tip portions, said occlusal wing comprising an occlusally-extending center leg and occlusally-extending mesial and distal wing tip portions, wherein said occlusally-extending center leg extends a greater distance from said archwire slot than each of said occlusally-extending mesial and distal wing tip portions;

a first set of gingival and occlusal notches, the gingival notch being disposed within the mesial/distal extent of said gingival tie wing and the occlusal notch being disposed within the mesial/distal extent of said occlusal tie wing;

a second set of gingival and occlusal notches, the gingival notch being disposed within the mesial/distal extent of said gingival tie wing and the occlusal notch being disposed within the mesial/distal extent of said occlusal tie wing, said first set of notches being disposed on a mesial side of said bracket and said second set of notches being disposed on a distal side of said bracket; and

a base interconnected to said body, said base having a substantially continuous pattern of characters and intermediate space, said base including a discontinuous perimeter rail; and at least one auxiliary slot, said at least one auxiliary slot including said pattern of characters.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 7, further comprising An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:~~

a body comprising first and second opposing tie wings defining a labially opening and mesiodistally-extending archwire slot therebetween, said first tie wing having an outer sidewall extending labially away from a longitudinal center plane of said archwire slot, said second tie wing having an outer sidewall extending substantially parallel to said longitudinal center plane of the archwire slot, wherein a trapezoidal configuration is defined between said outer sidewalls;

a base interconnected to said body, said base having a substantially continuous pattern of characters and intermediate space, said base including a discontinuous perimeter rail; and at least one auxiliary slot, said at least one auxiliary slot including said pattern of characters.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) ~~An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 12, further comprising~~
An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:

a body including gingival and occlusal tie wings defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, said archwire slot having opposing sidewalls and an adjoining floor;
a first convex portion extending labially from said floor and across said archwire slot;
a first auxiliary slot positioned under said convex portion;
a base interconnected to said body, said base having a substantially continuous pattern of characters and intermediate space, said base including a discontinuous perimeter rail, said characters and said perimeter rail interrupted by said first auxiliary slot; and
at least one auxiliary slot, said at least one auxiliary slot including said pattern of characters.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:
a body comprising gingival and occlusal sidewalls;
gingival and occlusal tie wings extending from said body and defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, wherein said gingival and occlusal tie wings are in a fixed position;
an auxiliary slot extending entirely through said body from said occlusal sidewall to said gingival sidewall, wherein said auxiliary slot is positioned on at least one of a mesial and a distal side of said bracket; and,
an auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having a shaft portion positionable within said auxiliary slot;
said auxiliary slot and said shaft portion of said auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having complimentary configurations wherein rotational movement therebetween is restricted; and
a base connected to said body, said base including an exterior surface, said exterior surface including a substantially continuous pattern of characters and intermediate space, wherein said

characters and said intermediate space are separated by a character wall, wherein said character wall has a polished surface.

18. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 17, wherein said auxiliary slot comprises adjoining, flat sidewalls, and wherein said shaft portion of said auxiliary device comprises complimentary adjoining, flat outer sidewalls.

19. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 17, wherein said orthodontic treatment device further comprises a portion which extends beyond said gingival tie wing when said orthodontic treatment device is installed in said auxiliary slot.

20. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 17, wherein said auxiliary slot is positioned on a mesial side of said bracket.

21. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 17, wherein said auxiliary slot is positioned on a distal side of said bracket.

22. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 17, wherein said auxiliary slot is positioned on a mesial side of said bracket, said bracket further comprising a second auxiliary slot extending entirely through said body from said occlusal sidewall to said gingival sidewall and a second auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having a shaft portion positionable within said second auxiliary slot, said second auxiliary slot and said shaft portion of said second auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having complimentary configurations wherein rotational movement therebetween is restricted.

23. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 17, wherein said orthodontic treatment device further comprises means for receiving a generally mesio-distally extending force applying member.

24. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic edgewise bracket as recited in claim 17, wherein an occlusal end of said orthodontic treatment device is positioned within said auxiliary slot, and wherein a gingival end of said orthodontic treatment device has at least one of a mesio and distal facing notch.

25. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 17, wherein said archwire slot has a floor, said body comprises an base which interfaces with a tooth, and said auxiliary slot extends through said base below said archwire slot.

26. (Previously presented) The bracket as claimed in claim 17, wherein said body and said base are one piece.

27. (Previously presented) The bracket as claimed in claim 17, wherein said bracket is made of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, metal, and ceramic.

28. (Previously presented) The bracket as claimed in claim 17, wherein said characters have a line width of between about 0.008 and 0.010 inches wide.

29. (Previously presented) The bracket as claimed in claim 17, wherein said intermediate space forms a projected surface of said base.

30. (Previously presented) The bracket as claimed in claim 17, wherein said characters are alpha/numeric and convey to a user of said bracket information selected from the group consisting of: model number, manufacturer, date of manufacture, lot number, distributor, placement data, and bracket data.

31. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:
a body comprising gingival and occlusal sidewalls;

gingival and occlusal tie wings extending from said body and defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, wherein said gingival and occlusal tie wings are in a fixed position;

an auxiliary slot extending entirely through said body from said occlusal sidewall to said gingival sidewall, wherein said auxiliary slot is positioned on at least one of a mesial and a distal side of said bracket; and,

an auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having a shaft portion positionable within said auxiliary slot;

said auxiliary slot and said shaft portion of said auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having complimentary configurations wherein rotational movement therebetween is restricted; and

a base connected to said body, wherein said base is molded together with said body such that said body and said base are one-piece, said base having a continuous pattern of characters and intermediate space, wherein said characters are recessed relative to said intermediate space, wherein said characters and said intermediate space are separated by a character wall, and wherein said character wall has a polished surface.

32. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:

a body comprising gingival and occlusal sidewalls;

gingival and occlusal tie wings extending from said body and defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, wherein said gingival and occlusal tie wings are in a fixed position;

an auxiliary slot extending entirely through said body from said occlusal sidewall to said gingival sidewall, wherein said auxiliary slot is positioned on at least one of a mesial and a distal side of said bracket; and,

an auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having a shaft portion positionable within said auxiliary slot;

said auxiliary slot and said shaft portion of said auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having complimentary configurations wherein rotational movement therebetween is restricted; and

a base connected to said body, said base including a discontinuous perimeter rail having a perimeter length and at least one cavity along said length, wherein said discontinuous perimeter rail

comprises a distal gingival corner, a gingival/mesial corner, a mesial/occlusal corner, and an occlusal/distal corner, and wherein said distal gingival corner, said gingival/mesial corner, said mesial/occlusal corner, and said occlusal/distal corner are separated from one another by at least one cavity.

33. (Previously presented) The bracket as claimed in claim 31, wherein said base further comprises a projected surface.

34. (Previously presented) The bracket as claimed in claim 33, wherein said projected surface comprises intermediate space.

35. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:
a body comprising gingival and occlusal sidewalls;
gingival and occlusal tie wings extending from said body and defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, wherein said gingival and occlusal tie wings are in a fixed position;
an auxiliary slot extending entirely through said body from said occlusal sidewall to said gingival sidewall, wherein said auxiliary slot is positioned on at least one of a mesial and a distal side of said bracket; and,
an auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having a shaft portion positionable within said auxiliary slot;
said auxiliary slot and said shaft portion of said auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having complimentary configurations wherein rotational movement therebetween is restricted; and
a base connected to said body, said base including an exterior surface, said exterior surface including a substantially continuous pattern of characters and intermediate space, wherein said characters are alpha/numeric and convey to a user of said bracket information selected from the group consisting of: model number, manufacturer, date of manufacture, lot number, distributor, placement data, and bracket data.

36. (Previously presented) An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:
a body comprising gingival and occlusal sidewalls;
gingival and occlusal tie wings extending from said body and defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, wherein said gingival and occlusal tie wings are in a fixed position;
an auxiliary slot extending entirely through said body from said occlusal sidewall to said gingival sidewall, wherein said auxiliary slot is positioned on at least one of a mesial and a distal side of said bracket; and,
an auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having a shaft portion positionable within said auxiliary slot;
said auxiliary slot and said shaft portion of said auxiliary orthodontic treatment device having complimentary configurations wherein rotational movement therebetween is restricted; and
a base connected to said body, said base including an exterior surface, said exterior surface including a substantially continuous pattern of characters and intermediate space, said base further comprising a discontinuous perimeter rail wherein said discontinuous perimeter rail comprises a distal/gingival corner, a gingival/mesial corner, a mesial/occlusal corner, and an occlusal/distal corner, wherein said distal/gingival corner, said gingival/mesial corner, said mesial/occlusal corner, and said occlusal/distal corner are separated from one another by a distance.